Promoting Bio-diesel

4336. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government will soon come out with an action plan, to launch pilot projects in different States to promote bio-diesel as an alternative fuel;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is exploring the contract farming avenues to promote oil palm cultivation;

(c) whether Government have decided to consult experts which would work out various details including the technical and commercial linkages, cost of production of bio-diesel;

(d) if so, whether a meeting of the concerned Central and State Departments have been convened to discuss the pilot project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government is contemplating an action plan to launch pilot project in different states to promote bio-diesel as an alternative fuel.

(b) The concept of the contract farming for production of oilseeds including promoting the cultivation of oil palm is at initial stages.

(c) to (e): Question does not arise in the light of answer to part (a)&(b).

Assistance to Rajasthan

†4337. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the amount of Rs.682.3 5 crore given recently to Rajasthan by Government on account of drought is sufficient upto the month of July;

(b) the amount of assistance sought by Rajasthan Government in respect of drought;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government propose to consider B.P.L. and A.P.L. families in same category in Rajasthan due to drought situation; and

(d) if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan had projected additional requirement of about Rs. 4160 crores for the current drought. Based on the assessment made by the Study Team which visited the State in January, 2003, the High Level Committee in its meeting held on 23-03-2003 approved additional assistance of Rs. 682.35 crores subject to adjustment of 25% of Calamity Relief Fund(CRF) allocation to the State for 2003-04. After such adjustment, Rs.622.44 crores from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was found admissible and released to the State.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

Production and storage of fruits and vegetables

†4338. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

(a) the total production of vegetables and fruits in the country at present and the quantity of vegetables and fruits spoiled in the absence of proper maintenance and storage facilities;

(b) the capacity of storage of fruits and vegetables at present in the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to process the food items, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the information available, the Production of fruit and vegetables in the country for the year 2000-01 is 453.70 lakh MT and 939.22 lakh MT respectively. Post Harvest losses do occur at different stages of produce handling and its transportation. The Working Group on Post Harvest Management for 10th Plan has estimated that the wastage range from 8-37% at various stages.

†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.